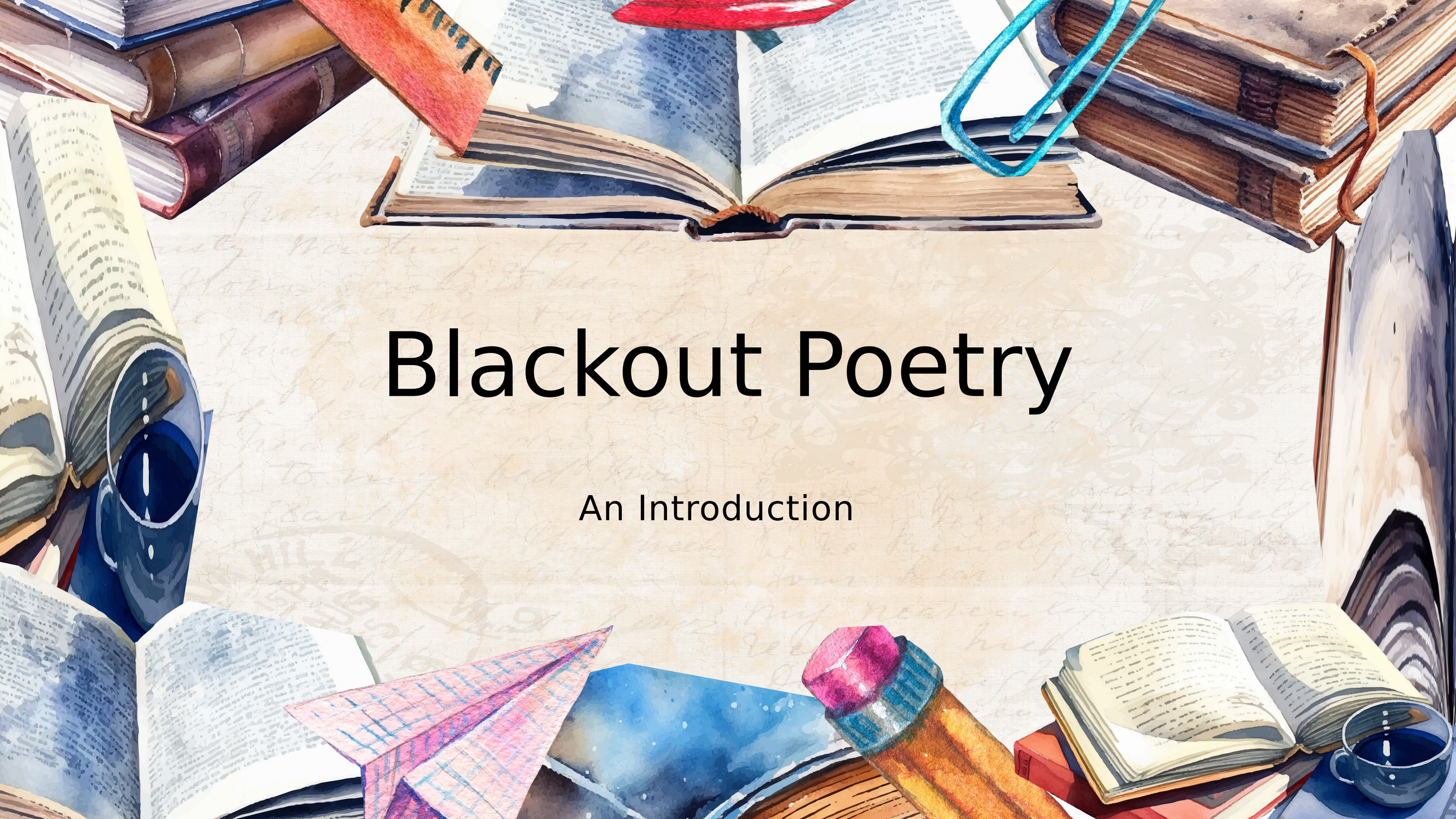


Blackout Poetry

An Introduction

Blackout Poetry

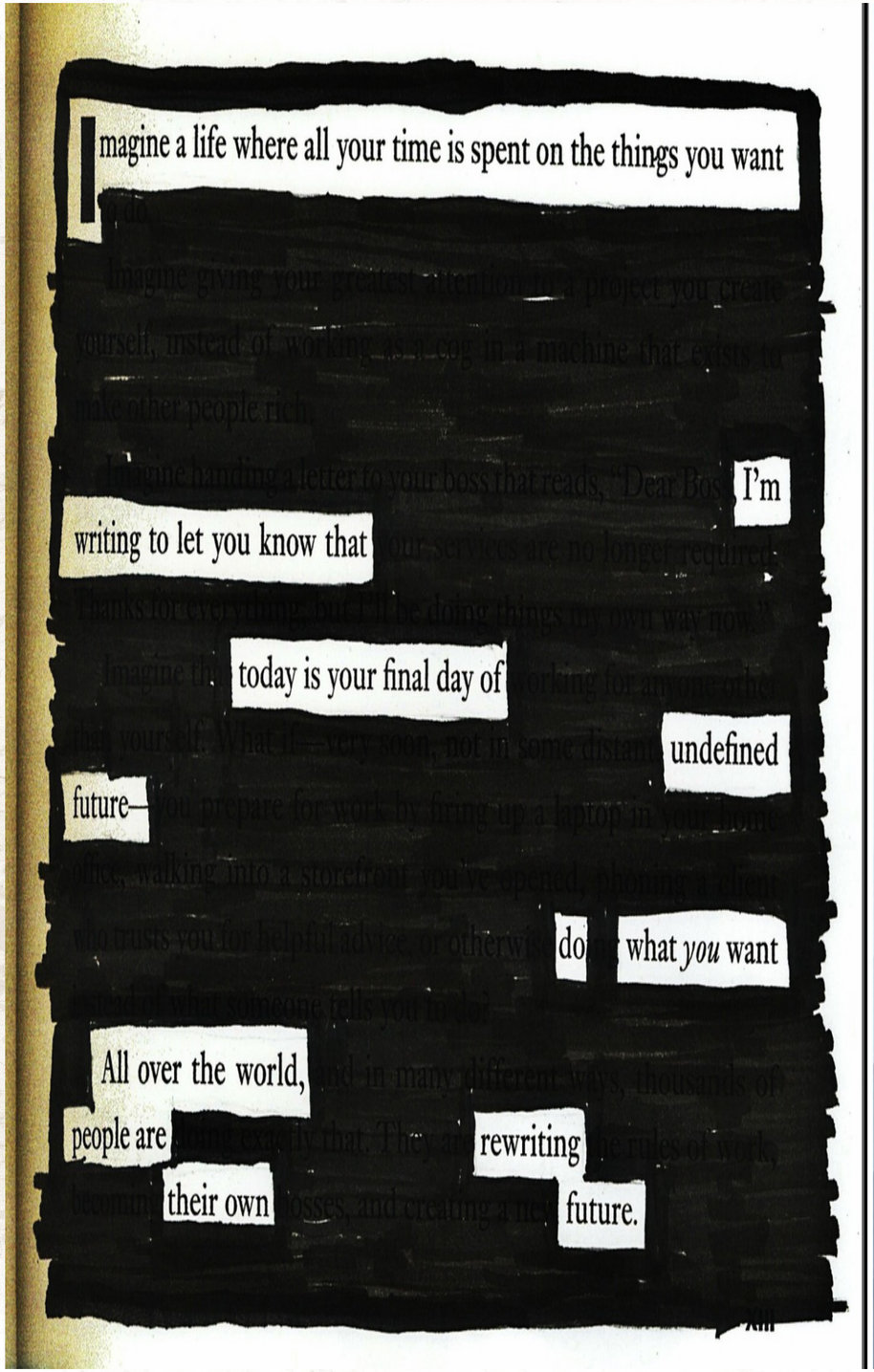
What is it?

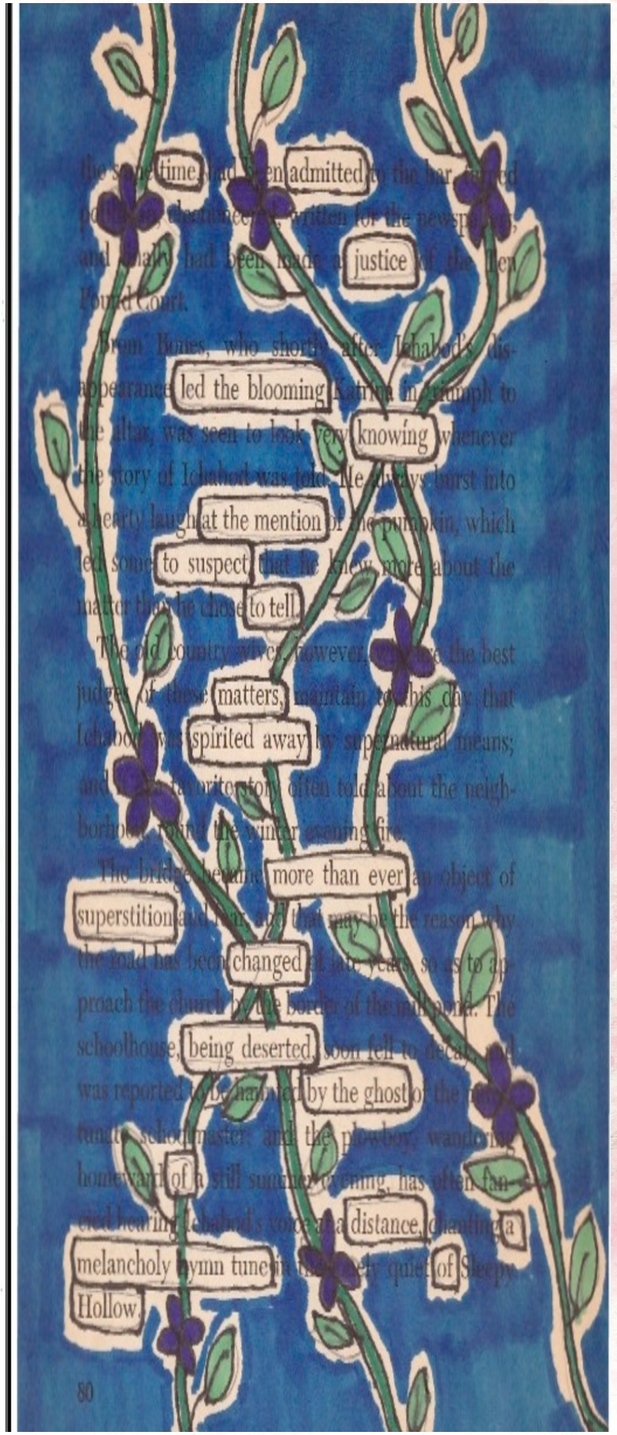
Definition

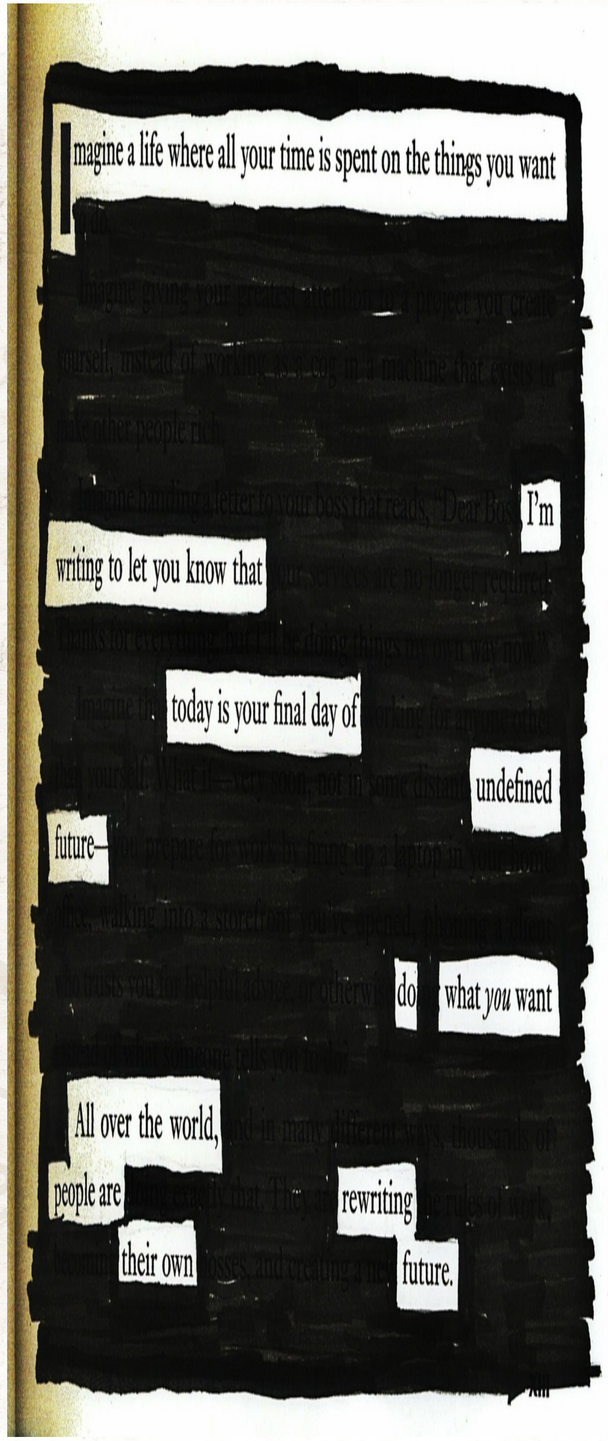
- A blackout poem is when a poet takes a marker (usually black marker) to already established text (like in a newspaper, for example) and starts redacting words until a poem is formed.

Examples

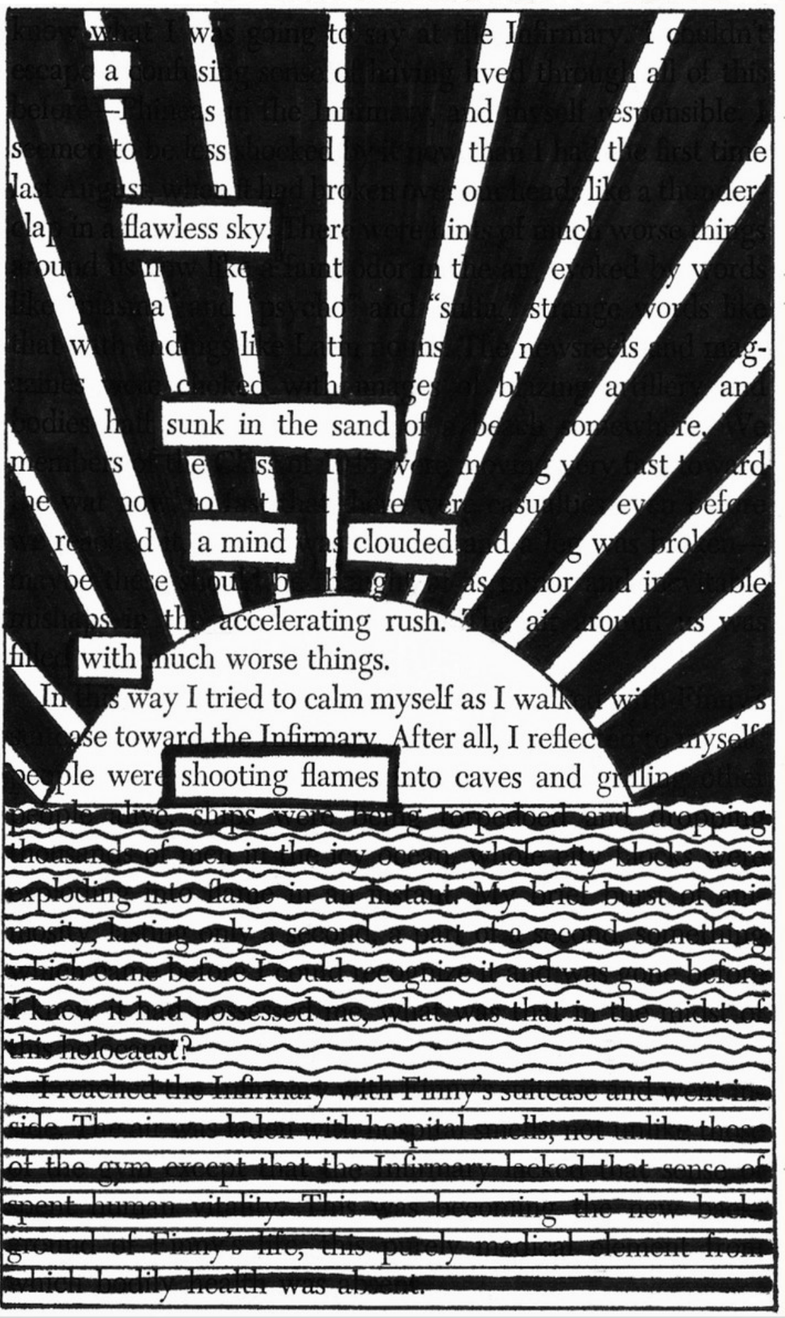
This section includes some examples of blackout poems. See the end of the presentation for two more.

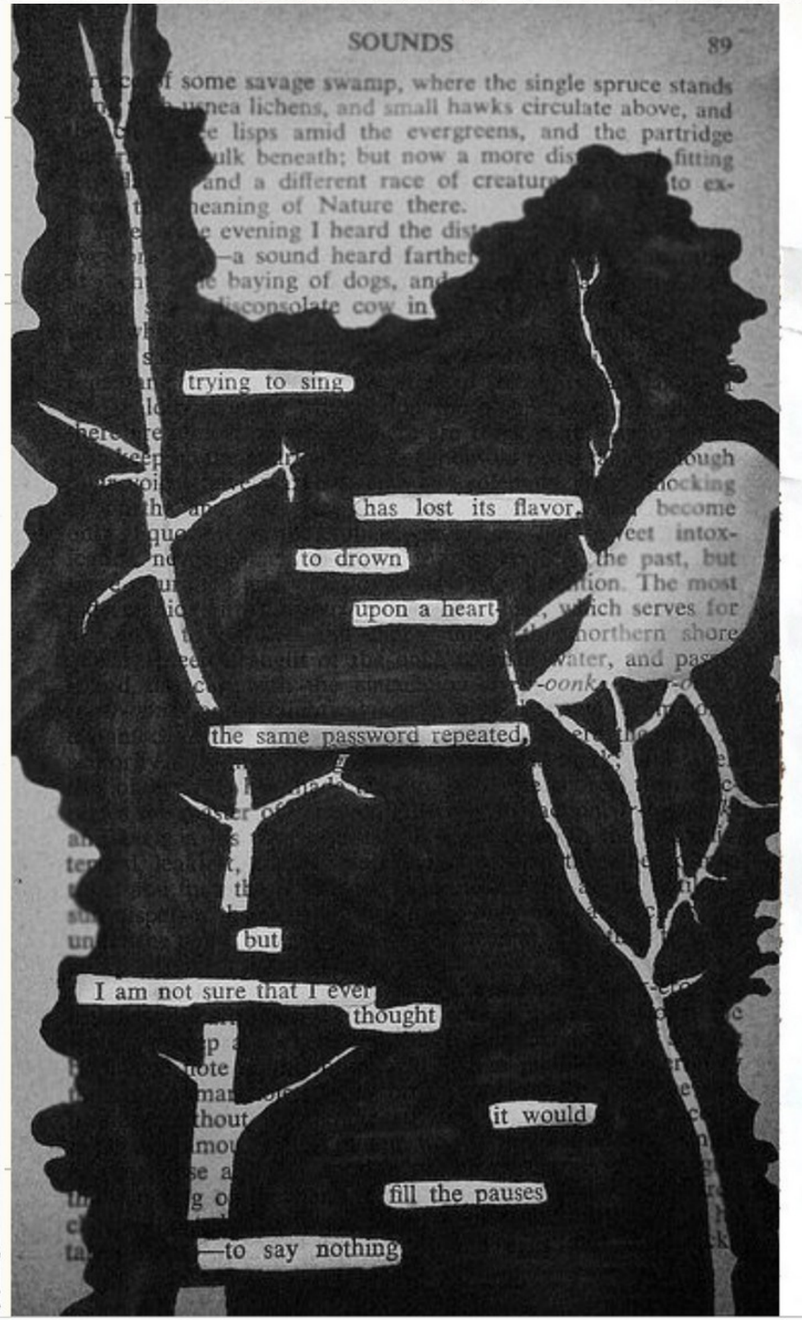

Imagine a life where all your time is spent on the things you want
I'm
writing to let you know that
today is your final day of
undefined
future—
do
what *you* want
All over the world,
people are
rewriting
their own
future.

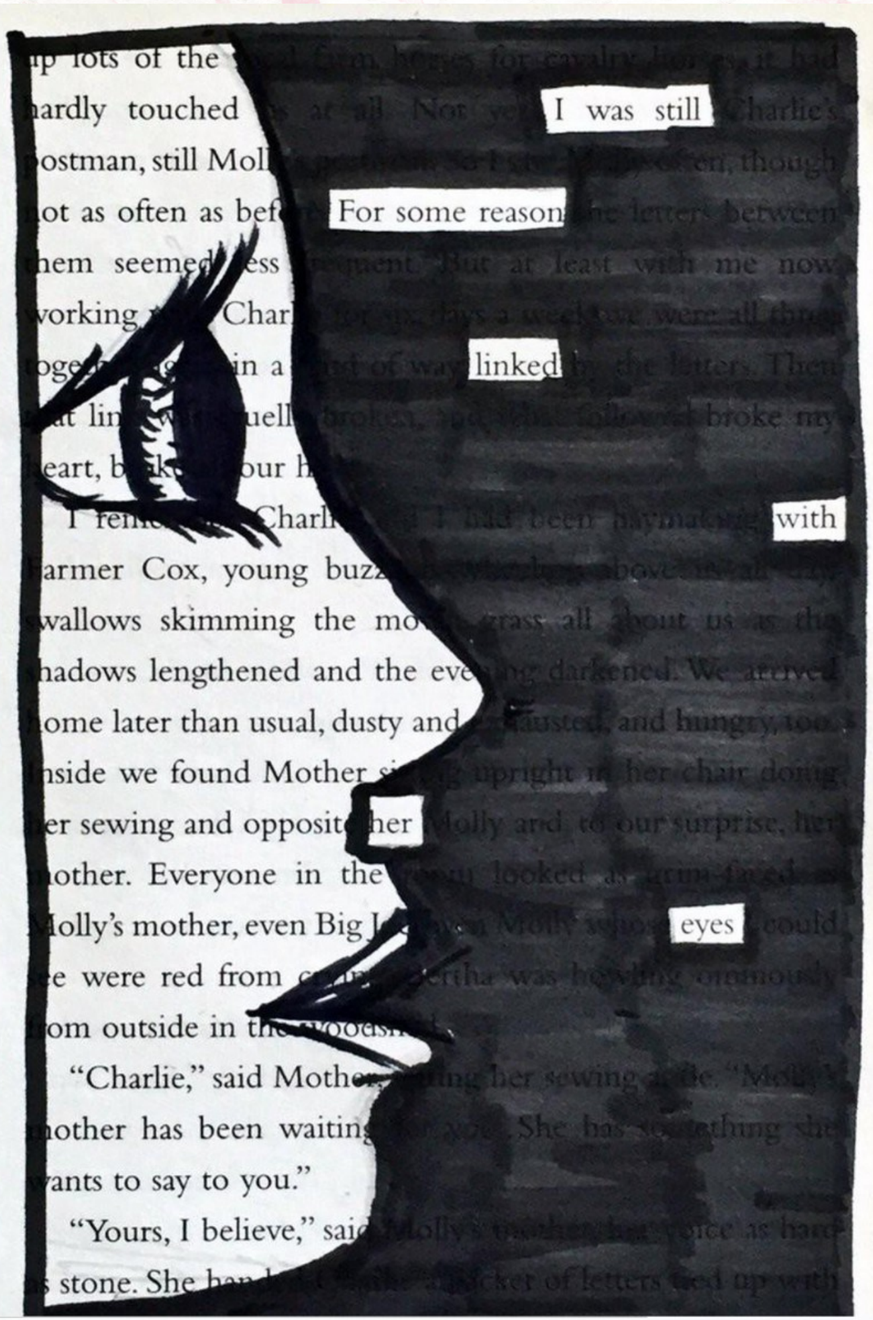

admitted
justice
led the blooming
knowing
matters,
spirited away
more than ever
changed
being deserted
by the ghost
distance,
Hollow.


magine a life where all your time is spent on the things you want
I'm
writing to let you know that
today is your final day of
undefined
future–
do
what *you* want
All over the world,
people are
rewriting
their own
future.

admitted
justice
led the blooming
knowing
matters
spirited away
more than ever
changed
being deserted
by the ghost
distance
Hollow


a
flawless sky
sunk in the sand
a mind
clouded
with
shooting flames


SOUNDS 89
trying to sing
has lost its flavor
to drown
upon a heart
the same password repeated
but
I am not sure that I ever
thought
it would
fill the pauses
—to say nothing


I was still
For some reason
linked
with
eyes

Steps to Create It

This section will explain the steps involved in creating Blackout Poetry.

Choose a text and circle words.

Step 1

- ***Choose a text*** to use to create your poem; this can be a page from a book, a piece of homework, or even an old store receipt
- ***Scan*** the page for ***anchor words*** (words that stand out to you that have meaning)

Step 2

- ***Read*** the entire page of text that you chose
- Use a ***pencil*** to lightly ***circle anchor words*** that stand out to you from Step 1

List your words and piece them together.

Step 3

- ***List*** all of your circled words on a ***separate sheet of paper***
- List the words ***in the order*** that they appear in the text, from top to bottom

Step 4

- ***Choose words*** from your list, without changing their order, and ***begin piecing them together*** to create the lines of your poem
- **REMEMBER!** You ***cannot*** add your own words to your poem; you must use only the words that appear on the page of text you chose (see Step 1)

Start blacking out and add an illustration.

Step 5

- Go back to your page of text that you chose (see Step 1) and ***circle only*** the words you ***will be using*** for your poem
- ***Erase*** any words that you will ***not be using***

Step 6

- ***Black out*** all words that ***will not*** be part of your poem; use a ***black marker*** for this step
- Add an ***illustration or design*** to your page that is connected to your peom; you may use ***colour*** for this part

He pulled the saddle over the exhausted hunting pony and
[illegible] and tied off reins, noting how the belly of the horse
had shrunk as he tightened the cinch. The horse would only
plod along at a slow walk, its thirst and hunger obvious. Yet,
it was a good horse for which the young man had traded for
the equivalent of seventy-five British pounds. Considering
that a first-class ticket by steamer to England from South Af-